

St. Petersburg Institute of History (Russian Academy of Sciences), Institute of Russian Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkin House), St. Petersburg Branch of the Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences

invite you to participate in the International Scientific Conference

“The History of Writing as Part of European Culture”

St. Petersburg, October 10–14, 2022

The history of the material and formal aspects of written culture has existed as a field of scholarly research for more than three centuries, and its relevance is becoming more evident over time. The Institute of History in St. Petersburg (the Russian Academy of Sciences), the main organizer of the conference, is the oldest specialized center for the study of written sources of history in Russia and is also the custodian of an important collection of written documents, codices and other items written in the Latin, Greek and Cyrillic scripts, which date from the Middle Ages to the modern era. The other scholarly and cultural entities collaborating in the organization of the conference are no less renowned research centers in this field. Rich and valuable collections are preserved in the manuscript department of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in the repository of ancient manuscripts “Drevlekhranilishche” at the Pushkin House and in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The modern digital revolution offers unprecedented instruments for a broad and, at the same time, detailed study of the history of writing, its changing techniques, styles, the material supports of written texts and the new social functions of documents, books, and other forms of texts in the Latin, Greek and Cyrillic alphabets. Such studies require well-coordinated work by teams of researchers from different specializations and the cooperation of a number of institutions.

The sessions dedicated to special topics within the framework of the conference “History of Writing as Part of European Culture” have the task of promoting research on handwritten documents representing the traditions of the written culture in Europe (including Russia), to reassess the results obtained during recent research in Russia and abroad, to promote the exchange of experiences in the field discussed and to better determine the paths to be taken in current and subsequent research. Conference participants are invited to address some closely related topics, including:

1. The *ductus*, that is to say the path – visible, but also invisible – of the tip of a pen, respectively a calamus or a stylus. We also treat this term as designating the sequence of lines, the ratio of the bold strokes and hairlines, the drawing of curves and straight lines. Ultimately, the ductus touches on the handling of the writing instrument, in other words, the technical side of writing in its historical evolution and with all its possible options.
2. The choice of forms and technical means based on legibility requirement or aesthetic preferences.
3. The social types of the scribes and artists who produced the pieces written in different periods, the conditions of their work. The social groups that commissioned the written word, their practical interests and their aesthetic senses.
4. The layout and general organization of the writing according to centuries-old traditions and new requirements.
5. The main types of written pieces (written legal acts, administrative and accounting documents, narrative texts, commercial documentation etc.), the writing traditions specific to these types of written text.

6. The examination of concrete pieces, their dating and localization from the characteristics of writing and the external form of a written piece.
7. The concrete historical conditions in which some written pieces were created.

Three thematic sections are envisioned:

- Book writing in the Latin, Byzantine and Cyrillic traditions;
- Written charters and documents;
- Epigraphic traditions from antiquity to modern times.

The conference will be held in a mixed format: in person and online. Please indicate in the submission whether the speaker will come to St. Petersburg. In person meetings will be held in St. Petersburg, the exact location of each meeting will be announced after the final approval of the conference program.

Time limit for presentations: 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. A special session will be devoted to the presentation of posters and communications (time limit - 10 minutes).

The working languages of the conference are: Russian, English, German and French.

Submissions for the conference are accepted until 20 July 2022. The request must be written in one of the working languages of the conference and contain the title of the report or communication, abstracts of up to 300 words and information about the author (full name, university degree and title, institution, position, e-mail address). Applications should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Conference Ekaterina Sergeevna Diligul at the address of the Organizing Committee: **istoriapisma@spbiiran.ru**

The Organizing Committee undertakes to send a response to all requests received within a short time frame and no later than August 1.